potential of 4.354 thousand hectare for irrigation facilities in Mandi District. However, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh have not included this project in the Tenth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 2002-03. Accordingly, there is no provision of any fund for this project.

Joint Meeting of Indus Waters Commission

92. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 88th joint meeting of the Indus Waters Commission was held in Islamabad on 30th January, 2003; and

(b) what matters were discussed in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The 88th Meeting of the Permanent Indus commission was held at Islamabad from 4th to 6th February, 2003 to discuss the issues related to the Baglihar Hydro Electric Plant being constructed by India on the Main Chenab River, in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Recharge of underground water source

93. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that underground water source is depleting alarmingly in the country;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to recharge the underground water source; and

(c) whether Government propose to enact a Legislation for the protection and maintenance of ground waters; if so, the details in this regard?